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ECONOMIC DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

Intelligence Request No. 2
Control No. 2092
30 November 1954

SUBJECT

Soviet Production of Jeeps

REQUESTING AGENCY AND DATE

Bureau of Foreign Commerce; 24 November 1954

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF INFORMATION

15 December 1954

PROPOSED USE

Intelligence developed to be used in re-evaluating the strategic rating of Jeeps, presently covered by Security List items 1450 and 2450.

BACKGROUND AND REFERENCES

Background: A representative of the Willys-Overland Company informs BFC that the Soviet Union is negotiating for the sale of Russian-made jeeps to Iceland, and that Willys is now meeting competition in this field from the Russians. Willys assisted the Russians in developing the production of jeeps during World War II.

Soviet-made military jeeps were captured in Korea and about a year ago Soviet jeeps were on exhibition at Aberdeen Proving Grounds. The U.S. shipped some 480,000 vehicles to the USSR during World War II under Lend-Lease of which number many were jeeps. It was estimated about two years ago that about half of the total number of vehicles shipped under Lend-Lease were still in operation in the Soviet Union at that time. Lately BFC has received reports that the Soviet Union was making strenuous efforts to import parts for these U.S.-made vehicles.

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References: US MESL - 1450 - Automotive vehicles or chassis, including specially designed parts therefor, having both front and rear drives and possessing any of the following characteristics:

- (a) maximum approved load capacity in excess of 1200 lbs. (550 kgs) and engine capacity in excess of 3000 cc;
- (b) water-proofed for operation when engine submerged in water;
- (c) radio suppression including fully screened high tension leads.

US MESL - 2450 - Automotive vehicles or chassis, having front and rear drives, n.e.s.; and specially designed parts therefor.

SPECIFIC INFORMATION AND/OR ACTION DESIRED

BFC requests an EDIC intelligence study to produce the following information:

1. What is the evidence, in addition to the above report, that the Soviet Union is exporting jeeps?
2. Estimates of Soviet production of jeeps, both military and civilian.

JAMES A. GRANT
Executive Secretary

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